

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JUL 06 2006

Patent Application Serial No.: 09/990,326

Our Ref: PT-1475000

CUSTOMER NO. 23607

Applicants: Anthony Derose

Agent: Neil H. Hughes, P. Eng.  
c/o Ivor M. Hughes  
Barrister & Solicitor  
Patent & Trade Mark Agents  
Suite 200,  
175 Commerce Valley Dr. W.  
Thornhill, Ontario.  
L3T 7P6, CANADA

Title:

Inventor: Anthony Derose

Examiner: Joanne Silbermann

Group Art Unit: 3611

No. of Pages including this sheet: 3

DELIVERED TO FACSIMILE NO. (571) 273-8300

July 6, 2006

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Attention: Ms. Lesley Morris  
Supervisor

Dear Ms. Morris:

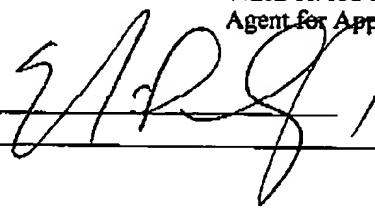
**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper:

1) Copy of letter to Examiner Silbermann dated July 6, 2006

is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office Facsimile  
No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

NEIL H. HUGHES  
Agent for Applicant

Signature: 

Date: July 6, 2006

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

JUL-06-06 16:26 From:IVOR M. HUGHES BARR&SOL.

9057716420

T-474 P.02/03 Job-895



Ivor M. Hughes

Barrister & Solicitor

Patent & Trade Mark Agents  
Canada, United States

Our Ref: PT-1475000

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUL 06 2006

Barristers & Solicitors  
Ivor M. Hughes  
Rick Turi  
  
Parent Agents  
Neil H. Hughes, P.Eng.  
Marcelo K. Sarkis, P.Eng.  
Wm. Kitte Struden  
Samuel T. Tekie, P.Eng.  
Francis Ng-Cheng-Hin

July 6, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE: (571-273-8300)

**COPY**

The Commissioner of Patents  
United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Attention: Ms. Joanne Silbermann**  
**Primary Examiner**

Dear Examiner Silbermann:

**Re: United States Application No. 09/990,326**  
**of Anthony Derose**  
**for IMPROVEMENTS IN DISPLAY SIGNS, DECORATIVE LIGHTING, AND**  
**ORNAMENTS FOR HOLIDAY SEASONS**

This letter will confirm the telephonic discussion between Examiner Silbermann and Neil Hughes, Agent of Record on Thursday, June 29, 2006. The Agent had requested guidance from the Examiner with respect to the election requirement included in the last office action and specifically which of the two species subject to an election might be more favourable for allowance in the Examiner's view.

The Examiner offered no assistance or guidance whatsoever essentially taking the position that she could not be of any assistance. But according to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) an Examiner of the USPTO should provide some direction when requested to do so. Although it may not be a duty under law the Examiner should provide some guidance or assistance to the Applicant in determining a direction to pursue. Otherwise a dead end is reached as is now the case, and the Applicant's rights may be prejudiced. In this regard please refer to the appropriate section of the MPEP set out below.

At page 700-101, column 2, section 707.07(j) under Allowable Except As to Form:

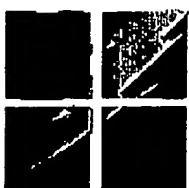
*"...the examiner should not stop with a bare objection or rejection of the claims. The examiner's action should be constructive in nature and, when possible, should offer a definite suggestion for correction."*

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

JUL-06-06 16:26 From: IVOR M. HUGHES BARR&SOL.

9057716420

T-474 P.03/03 Job-895



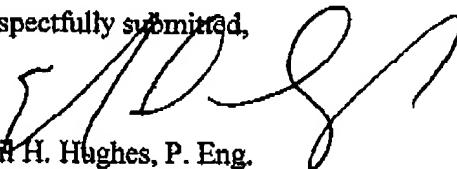
- 2 -

At page 700-164, column 2, section 713.01:

*"...However, the examiner should attempt to identify issues and resolve differences during the interview as much as possible."*

Applicant would therefore appreciate it if the Examiner would assist Applicant's Agent in determining a direction to pursue with respect to claims related to either a string of ornaments or a display sign and as to which species the Examiner considers there is patentable subject matter. Every assistance would be very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil H. Hughes, P. Eng.  
Agent for Applicant

NHH/lvp

~~Copy.~~ Lesley Morris, Supervisor (via facsimile)